

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Weir River Estuary Park Committee**

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:00pm**

#### **Remote – Video/Call-in Meeting**

This is a Tri-Town Committee, appointed by the Boards of Selectmen for Cohasset, Hingham and Hull, not a non-profit Watershed Association. Formed in 2002 approved in 2005, the goal of the WREP Committee is to advocate for the support of each town's Master Plan and/or Open Space Plan in the Weir River estuary to advocate for the goal through:

1. Preserve the rare and idyllic setting and character
2. Expand public access and recreational opportunities
3. Protect the historical and geological integrity
4. Protect and restore natural resources and biological diversity
5. Conserving a contiguous corridor of open spaces and habitat
6. Develop educational opportunities and foster stewardship
7. Establish community support for land protection and maintain relationships existing local land trusts and land preservation organizations.

**1.Call to Order** by Sharon Allen representing Hingham. In attendance were: Dick Avery (C), Tom Bell (C), Judeth Van Hamm (Hu), Scott Plympton (Hu), Patti Coyle (H), guest Hull resident/Hingham Land Conservation Trust (LCT) member Don Kidston and guest Mark Buonagurio (H). The meeting commenced at 4pm and was called to order at 4:19pm. Minutes from the previous meeting on 10/06/20 conducted via Zoom hosted by the Town of Hingham were approved for posting. Sharon Allen chaired the meeting and Tom Bell produced the minutes.

**2. Discussions:** Congratulations to Judeth Van Hamm (Hull) and Scott Plympton (Hull) for their swearing in by the Town of Hull as representatives of Hull to the Committee. Their interim appointment restored the Committee to its full complement of at least one representative member from each of the three Towns.

A proposal to use a single Annual Report format with appropriate alterations to the addresses for each Town was approved. Representatives from each Town will enquire about the Town specific deadlines for the Annual Report and report back to the Committee.

A motion to establish quarterly WREP Committee meetings plus a fifth meeting for time sensitive business was approved.

Tuesday April 6 at 3:30 pm was set for an inspection of the "island" at the west end of Straits Pond by interested Committee members. Tom Bell will seek permission to cross the yard of Jim and Debbie Baird at 31 Richards Rd Hull for access to the beach. Members will walk below the high-water mark to the island.

Tom Bell informed the Committee that the high tide on the morning of April 24<sup>th</sup> would hinder the Earth Day/Spring cleanup and that the Weir River Watershed and Straits Pond Watershed Associations had

selected Saturday May 1 as their cleanup day. May 1 was approved by the Committee for WREP's cleanup day.

### **3. Discussion, Motions and Votes Taken-**

- a) A motion to remove consideration of World Migratory Fish day on the meeting agenda passed.
- b) A motion to remove consideration of the Hingham 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on the meeting agenda passed.
- c) A motion to discuss National Estuaries Week was postponed to the next meeting
- d) A proposal to organize a boating event for National Estuaries week was discussed.

### **4. Brief Updates-**

- a) Fish count at Foundry Pond to be administered by North and South River Watershed Association.
- b) Straits Pond Watershed Association is sending a letter to Town officials in Hull, Hingham, and Cohasset requesting an update on the Towns' efforts to reduce midge population, algae growth, and repair of the West Corner Tide gates.
- c) Mary Savage Dunham, Director of Community Planning in Hingham is leaving her position. Robert Higgins will not seek re-election to the Hingham Sewer Board.
- d) No applications for high density development in Hingham proximal to the Weir River Area of Critical Environmental Concern are pending.
- e) The WREP is mentioned five times in the Hingham Master Plan.

### **5. Next meeting tentatively scheduled via Video/Remote call-in for 6/29/21 at 4pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.